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Unlocking the universe

Scientists near Geneva say they think they may have found footprint evidence of dark matter PAGE 17

Put on your bright whites

Turns out a smile really can be your umbrella. Learn how healthy teeth can protect you from disease PAGE 30

HER OWN KIND OF FEMINIST

BEYONCÉ SHRUGS OFF CRITICISM OVER CALLING HER NEW TOUR THE MRS. CARTER SHOW PAGE 25

BECAUSE WE CAN

Jon Bon Jovi put on a show for Edmonton fans on Wednesday night, as the rocker brought his Because We Can tour to Rexall Place. For more photos, visit metronews.ca. ASPEN ZETTEL/FOR METRO

Brothers set to battle in local MMA bout

Undercard. Fights will be streamed live via Maximum Fighting's Facebook page

HEATHER MCINTYRE
heather.mcintyre@metronews.ca

It may seem like rivalry, but really it's brotherly love.

Brothers Mike and Thomas Treadwell, both of Edmonton, will make their professional mixed martial arts debut in a bout at Maximum Fighting Championship 37 at the Shaw Conference Centre May 10.

"From what I've been told, on a professional level, it's never happened," said Mike, 30. "At first it seemed a little odd but Thomas and I spoke about it, and it felt like something that would be fun and exciting to say that we've done."

Mike, currently a manager of a transportation company, was in the military and has also worked security. He's been involved in the MMA scene on and off since 2000.

Thomas, 20, is a specialized mechanic by trade. He'll be 21 by fight night.

The pair — two of six children in the family — also live together.

"We're not doing it for acknowledgement, we're not doing it out of a rivalry," Mike said. "We don't hate each other — we're best friends.

"When it's done we're going to hug each other and go for a beer."

There are some big names on the fight card that night but MFC president Mark Pavelich doesn't think he's alone in wanting to see the Treadwell fight, which is on the undercard.

"I remember growing up as a child and fighting my brother," he said. "And some of my best fights were with him."

Tickets for the event are three-quarters sold out already, he added.

"I want to watch it, and so do a lot of other people."

MFC 37

- The championship fight will include Chris Barnett vs. Smealinho Rama.
- Other notable names on the fight card are Ryan Benoit vs. Anthony Birchak, as well as Luke Harris, Sam Alvey and Mukai Maromo.
- Tickets are available through Ticketmaster.

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Investigation.
Racist graffiti 'absolutely shocking,' police say

The Edmonton Police Service hate-crimes unit is investigating an incident of vandalism in south Edmonton.

In a photo that surfaced Tuesday night on social media, a racial slur and swastikas were spray-painted in black on the driveway, garage, front door and step of a home.

EPS said a passing motorist called to report the graffiti, in the area of 1B Avenue and 51 Street SW, just before 1 p.m. last Sunday.

"We believe this isn't a random incident but this is an isolated event," Insp. Ed McIsaac of the Organized Crime Branch said in a release. "Although one residence was vandalized, the community as a whole is negatively affected by this crime."

Chief Rod Knecht weighed in on Wednesday morning.

"I know they're investigating it right now," he said. "And, of course, it's absolutely shocking, it's unacceptable."

Knecht said there were 112 cases filed with the unit in 2012.

"They're busy," he said. "They have lots of work to do. Obviously this is something that garners a little more attention."

Anyone with information is asked to call the hate-crimes unit at 780-421-3489, EPS at 780-423-4567 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

HEATHER MCINTYRE/METRO, WITH FILES FROM ANNALISE KLINGBEIL

Allyson McConnell, convicted of drowning her sons Connor, 2, and Jayden, 10 months, in this bathtub, is scheduled for early release on Thursday after serving two-thirds of a 15-month jail term for manslaughter. Her former husband, Curtis McConnell, believes she is planning to travel back to her native Australia.
POLICE HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mom who drowned sons should stay here: Province

Crown appeal pending.
But ex-husband says woman plans to return to native Australia

Alberta justice officials say they are pressing the federal government to prevent a woman who drowned her two young sons from travelling back to her native Australia.

Allyson McConnell is scheduled for early release on Thursday after serving two-thirds of a 15-month jail term for manslaughter.

The depressed and suicidal woman killed her children in the town of Millet, south of Edmonton, in 2010. She later drove to the city, jumped off a busy overpass and was rushed to hospital.

The court heard she and her husband were in the middle of a bitter divorce and she wanted to take her children with her to Australia.

Her former husband, Curtis McConnell, released a statement to Global News saying he believes his ex-wife is set to fly home to Australia later this week. He has struggled to find out more.

"I am not sure if Allyson is free once she lands in Australia," he wrote. "Being only 34 years old, will she start a new family and have another child in her care?"

A judge ordered that McConnell was to serve her sentence at an Edmonton psychiatric hospital and it's not known if doctors there have approved her release.

Josh Stewart, a spokesman with Alberta Justice, said he also doesn't know if McConnell is set to fly out of the country. But he says officials want to keep her here pending the outcome of an appeal by the Crown.

Staff in his office have left messages asking for help from federal Justice Minister Vic Toews and Immigration Minister Jason Kenney.

"It's important to us justice is served here in Alberta," Stewart said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Legal wrangle

- If Allyson McConnell returns to Australia and the court orders a new trial or more time behind bars, there would be a lengthy extradition process, Alberta Justice spokesperson Josh Stewart says.

Mayor Mandel stands firm on criticism of the province

Speaking up. He won't stay silent on Alberta's cuts to universities and colleges

RYAN TUMILTY
ryan.tumilty@metronews.ca

Mayor Stephen Mandel delivered a strong attack on the provincial government's moves on post-secondary institutions during his state of the city address Tuesday. METRO FILE

Mayor Stephen Mandel is standing by his defence of the city's post-secondary institutions in light of blunt dismissals from Alberta's minister of advanced education.

Mandel took aim at the provincial government's cuts to post-secondary institutions in his state of the city address on Tuesday.

Minister Thomas Lukaszuk in turn said the mayor was uninformed about the issues and more upset about the province's decision not to fund the downtown arena.

Mandel dismissed Lukaszuk's comments Wednesday and said he won't stop speaking out for the city.

"I have every right to defend the concerns and interests of the City of Edmonton and should not receive threats from anybody else when I am doing that," he said

Lukaszuk said Mandel is a friend and he was surprised he hadn't brought up his concerns about post-secondary institutions before.

"Mayor Mandel is not only a colleague in Edmonton politics, but he is also a friend of mine, a personal friend of mine," he said. "We talk to each other very, very often and he has never, ever raised any of these issues relative to post-secondary education."

Mandel said he purposely raised his concerns in public, because raising issues in private has not worked in the past. He said the city tried to emphasize the importance of Capital Health to Edmonton before it was consolidated into Alberta Health Service, but it wasn't heard.

Announcement

- Stephen Mandel was expected to announce whether he would run for a fourth term as mayor, but he postponed that decision.
- Mandel was first elected in 2001 as a councillor and has been mayor since 2004. The fall election will see candidates running for four-year terms.

New facility

IHuman Youth Society moves forward with new centre

City councillors approved a portion of the funding sought by the iHuman Youth Society for a new facility.

IHuman came to council to have the $1.75 million the city had pledged to its $8-million new centre released.

The city usually only releases its cash when all project funding is secured.

The society wanted the money earlier to pay a mortgage on land where the new facility will go and avoid an interest payment.

On Wednesday councillors were unwilling to go that far, but they passed a motion to allow the funds to be released earlier if the city is confident the building will be completed.

The society's executive director thanked council for meeting them halfway.

"We recognize there is some risk to them to give us the money without having other orders of government commit," said Catherine Broomfield.

She said they would now work on their Plan B to pay the mortgage before the coming $50,000 interest payment.

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

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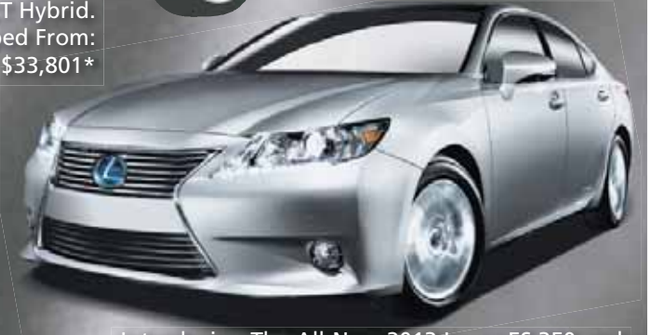

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Randy Ferbey. RCMP on lookout for stolen Team Alberta curling jacket

Randy Ferbey THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

RCMP in Strathcona County are requesting the public's assistance in finding a stolen Team Alberta jacket that belongs to retired curler Randy Ferbey.

In a release issued Wednesday, RCMP said the clothing item holds sentimental value and was stolen from a vehicle parked in the Clarkdale Meadows neighbourhood of Sherwood Park sometime during the evening hours of March 11 or the morning hours of March 12.

RCMP describe the jacket as blue in colour, with yellow trim and eight purple hearts sewn on the left sleeve. The jacket also has "FERBEY" embroidered across the back.

Anyone with information is asked to contact RCMP at 780-467-7741 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

METRO

Spruce Grove. Charges laid after pepper-spray attack on Walmart greeter

A 74-year-old Walmart greeter was the victim of a pepper-spray attack in Spruce Grove Tuesday night.

According to Spruce Grove/Stony Plain RCMP, the woman was working the front entrance shortly before 11 p.m. when she heard the door alarm sound for an unpaid item. RCMP said two men were seen leaving the store when the woman asked to see a receipt. RCMP said the woman was then sworn at and targeted directly in the face with pepper spray.

She was treated on scene by EMS and is receiving support from the RCMP victim-services unit.

Thanks to witness accounts, RCMP were able to make two arrests. Faron Cardinal, 32, of Calling Lake, and Lloyd Giroux, 24, of Fort Smith, N.W.T., face charges.

METRO

Edmonton police Chief Rod Knecht speaks to media on Wednesday about plans to increase the police presence in local elementary and junior high schools.
ANNALISE KLINGBEIL/METRO

Pilot project will put police officers in schools

Community presence. Schools have agreed to provide officers with office space, Internet access, telephone within schools, says chief

ANNALISE KLINGBEIL
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It's not every day you see a police cruiser parked outside of an elementary school.

The Edmonton police are hoping that will change, with a new pilot project scheduled to formally launch next week.

The "experiment" will see Edmonton police officers equipped with a workspace in public and Catholic elementary and junior high schools.

"Our folks can go into the schools, do their paperwork, as opposed to come back to the office," said police Chief Rod Knecht.

Schools won't be allowed to task the officers with work because they will remain on duty, but the informal program is meant to allow staff, teachers and children to interact with police officers.

"Basically it's trying to create a presence, in elementary schools especially, so that children see police officers more frequently," said Lori Nagy, spokesperson for Edmonton Catholic Schools.

Edmonton Public School Board spokesperson Dajana Fabjanovich said the program is about building trust.

Immigrant students in particular often have a different relationship and perception of the police because of experiences in their home countries, Fabjanovich said.

"The program builds closer ties with students and families," she said.

Aiming to build closer ties

6

The number of Edmonton Catholic and public schools that will participate in the pilot project.

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Edmonton Transit is currently hard-pressed to make major improvements or additions to the system because it doesn't have enough buses in the fleet. CONTRIBUTED/CITY OF EDMONTON

Council vote: No new buses

Growing pains. City struggling to deal with spike in ridership

RYAN TUMILTY
ryan.tumilty@metronews.ca

There will be little relief for Edmonton Transit users hoping for either late-night service or less-crowded buses.

Following up on a debate from earlier this year, council reviewed a list of five priorities for improved transit service, but faced with a lack of buses it decided not to fund any.

City administration listed the priorities after a debate sprung up on late-night service earlier this year.

Administration put late-night service at the bottom of the list, with relieving pressure on overcrowded buses, service to new neighbourhoods and more direct service ahead on the wish list.

The city could have addressed some of those challenges with more operating funding, but it will need more buses to make a serious dent.

"There is a limited amount of service improvements that we can make with the fleet we have right now," said Ken Koropeski, with Edmonton Transit.

Coun. Amarjeet Sohi said so many people have continued to pick transit that the city is having trouble keeping up with the demand.

"We have a serious challenge, and that challenge is imposed by the phenomenal growth we have seen in the ridership in the past few years," Sohi said.

Councillors have asked administration to prepare a report on bus purchases, which will be considered this fall.

Late-night service

5

Late-night service as the city proposed would have spread out across the city on five routes starting in downtown and Old Strathcona.

Strathcona County RCMP

Motorcyclist suffers serious injuries in crash

One man is in hospital with serious injuries after a collision between a motorcycle and a semi-tanker trailer unit in the Edmonton area Wednesday morning.

According to Strathcona County RCMP, the collision occurred at 17 Street and 116 Avenue.

The driver of the motorcycle, a 23-year-old from St. Albert, was taken to hospital by ambulance with serious injuries.

METRO

Tour of Alberta. City council gives $250,000 for inaugural bike race

City council officially lent its support to the Tour of Alberta Wednesday, pledging $250,000 to the inaugural event.

Councillors also approved road closures for the time trials that will take place in Edmonton Sept. 3. The route will take racers through downtown and Churchill Square down into the river valley, before routing back through downtown past the provincial legislature.

Duane Vienneau, executive director of the race, said it was great to get council's support. He said the race start time of 6 p.m. should help allay traffic problems as a result of the road closures.

"We give the opportunity for citizens to get out of the downtown core if they need to, but we don't expect them to do that. They are going to want to stay and see it," Vienneau said.

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

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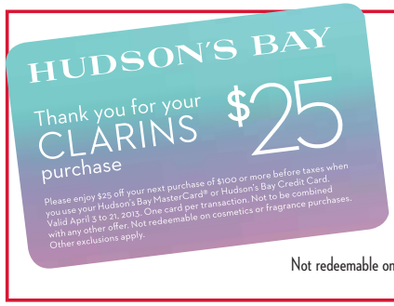

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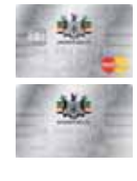

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Gay slurs shock council

Manitoba town says sorry. But owners of targeted restaurant will close it anyway

ELISHA DACEY
Metro in Winnipeg

A Manitoba town council has issued an open letter condemning recent homophobic slurs toward a local restaurant.

It's "very disappointing" that the slurs against the restaurant, Pots N Hands, have "become an issue in our town," said the council in the Town of Morris, about 70 kilometres south of Winnipeg.

The owners of Pots N Hands, Dave Claringbould and his partner, say they plan to shut down April 13 because of the homophobic slurs by a few locals.

"We were asked if somebody was going to catch something off of the plate because we had prepared the food on it," said Claringbould, 35.

Pots N Hands owner and chef, Dave Claringbould, outside his Morris, Man., restaurant. Claringbould and his partner are closing their business because of homophobic insults. Claringbould said he and his partner are "very hurt and upset" by the homophobia. TREVOR HAGAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

There have been other incidents, too, said Claringbould — although the majority of townspeople have been friendly.

The council's open letter expressed regret that the restaurant would close.

"We as a council, along with our CAO, met for lunch at Pots N Hands to show support for this restaurant in our town," says the letter.

"In doing so, we made a public statement as a group that the people who represent Morris support our local businesses regardless of race, belief, and/or sexual orientation.

"This lunch occurred a week ago, and was certainly not the first time any of us had eaten there."

One resident, who asked not to be named, said she is disgusted by the prejudice.

"There's a couple of village-idiot rednecks, young fellas," she said. "When they grow up they'll understand how their vicious tongues can hurt people."

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Manchester, U.K.

Punk punching now a hate crime

If you punch a punk in Manchester, England, it could be a hate crime.

Police say they'll begin cracking down on offences against subcultures in the same way they do on attacks based on race, religion, disability or sexual orientation.

"People who wish to express their alternative sub-culture identity freely should not have to tolerate hate crime," Assistant Chief Constable Garry Shewan said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manchester, N.H.

Why this city's a taxi desert

Chances are you won't get a cab in Manchester, N.H. — police sidelined all 18 licensed taxis for inspection failures or failing to show up for inspection.

Most were cited for mechanical violations.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Advertisement

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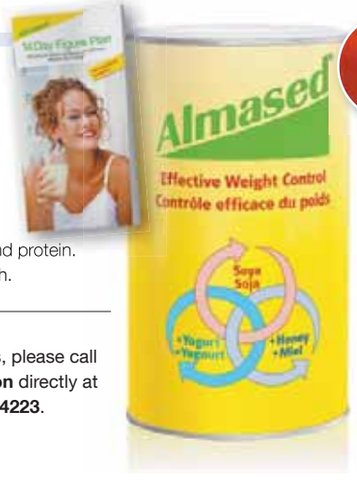

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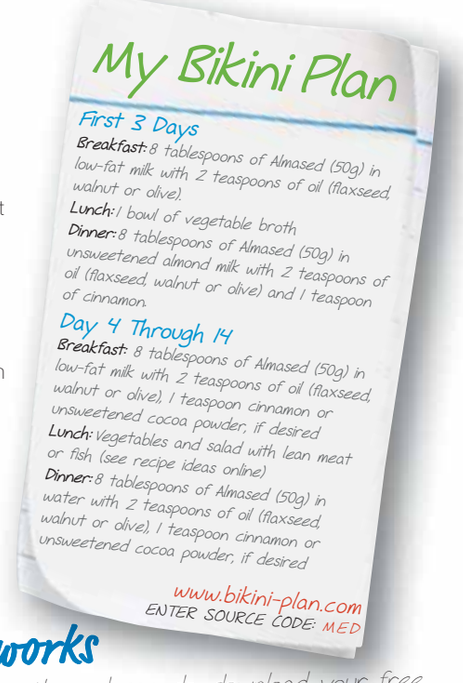

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Magnotta treated for schizophrenia, court records show

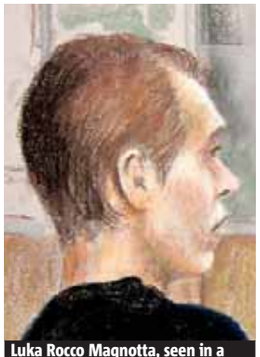
Flashback to 2005. Psychiatrist's letter in fraud-case file reveals the accused killer's treatment and hospitalization

Luka Rocco Magnotta, accused of killing and dismembering a Chinese student, was treated for paranoid schizophrenia, newly revealed court documents show.

But his doctor said he didn't always take his medication.

A letter from Magnotta's psychiatrist was attached to the court file of Magnotta's 2005 conviction for fraud in Toronto.

It offers a glimpse into the mind of the man now accused in the gruesome slaying and dismemberment of 33-year-old Jun Lin.



Luka Rocco Magnotta, seen in a court drawing, didn't always take his medication, a psychiatrist says. MIKE MCLAUGHLIN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Magnotta, 30, then known by his birth name, Eric Newman, suffered from paranoid schizophrenia since at least 2000 and was hospitalized several times, Dr. Thuraisamy Sooriabalan wrote.

"The treatment consists of taking antipsychotic medications and attending (the) outpatient department for supportive psychotherapy and health education," wrote the doctor based at the Rouge Valley Health System's Centenary site in Toronto.

"Unfortunately Mr. Newman is not very regular in attending the outpatient department and as a result he misses his medications."

The letter was written in May 2005. It was released Wednesday after media outlets fought for it to be made public. THE CANADIAN PRESS

War of words. All systems go for a 'lighter' nuke attack, says North Korea

Military exercises amid the tension: A U.S. Air Force F-22 Raptor stealth fighter takes off from an air base south of Seoul, South Korea, on Wednesday. BAE JUNG-HYUN/YONHAP/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

North Korea is warning Washington that its military has been cleared to wage an attack using "smaller, lighter and diversified nuclear" weapons.

The threat is the latest in a series of escalating warnings from North Korea.

It has railed for weeks against joint U.S. and South Korean military exercises taking place in South Korea and it has expressed anger over tightened sanctions for a February nuclear test.

North Korea said troops have been authorized to counter U.S. aggression with "powerful practical military counteractions."

Pyongyang said that America's ever-escalating hostile policy toward North Korea "will be smashed" by the North's nuclear strike and the "merciless operation" of its armed forces.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon said it will deploy a high-altitude missile defence system to Guam to strengthen the Asia-Pacific region's protections against a possible North Korean attack.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fish deformities

Oilsands a risk like oil spills?

A top Canadian scientist says there are similarities between fish deformities found downstream from Alberta's oilsands and those observed after the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska and Florida's Deepwater Horizon disaster.

David Schindler of the University of Alberta says some chemical or chemicals may be to blame.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wishful Googling?

Google's spring came early

Wiarton Willie's forecast of an early spring might have been wrong, but Google says the groundhog might have been reflecting what we were hoping for.

Google searches for "spring" came early — mid-February. "Spring" searches usually don't start peaking until March, Google says. METRO

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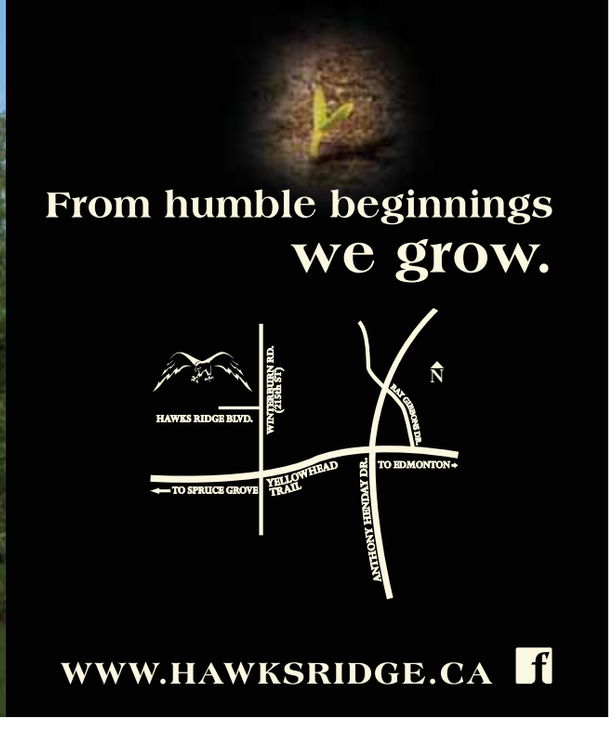


Palestinian kids attend a class at the UNRWA elementary school in Shati refugee camp in Gaza City, Tuesday.
HATEM MOUSSA/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hamas imposes gender separation in schools

Rule denounced. Legal-aid group for women warned the bill 'takes our society back to ancient times'

Starting with the new school year in September, Gaza boys and girls in middle and high school will be breaking the law if they study side by side.

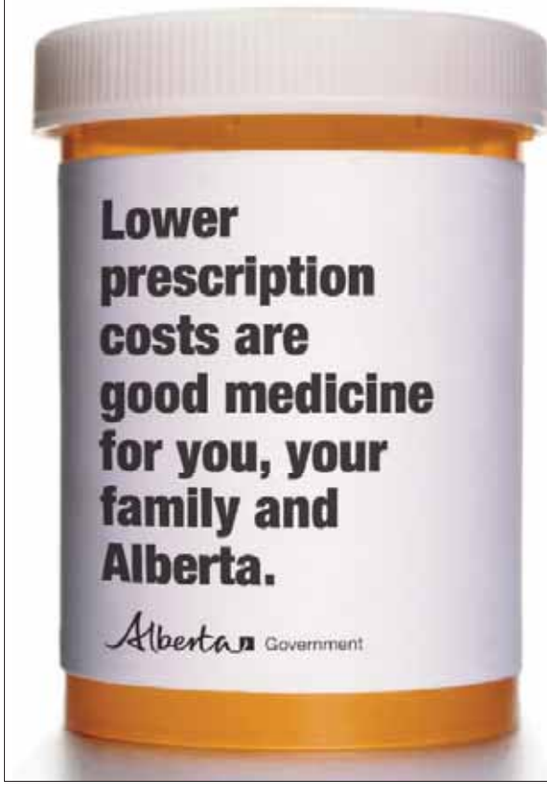
Gaza's Islamic militant Hamas rulers argue that the new legislation, mandating gender separation in schools from age nine, enshrines common practice. But women's activists warned it's another step in the Hamas agenda of imposing its fundamentalist world view on Gaza's 1.7 million people.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ultra-conservative

Hamas has issued a series of rules requiring women to cover up in Islamic dress and headscarves.

- Other edicts include bans on women smoking water pipes, riding on motorcycles or going to male hair stylists.



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Prison guard pulled teen's hair, cursed at her, Smith inquest hears

Peter Guenther, former executive director of the Regional Psychiatric Centre in Saskatoon, leaves the Ashley Smith inquest in Toronto on Wednesday. Guenther said he had never seen someone so persistently self-harming as the teen was. COLIN PERKEL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Testimony. Psych centre director who worked with teen recounts alleged prison abuse

A deeply disturbed teenager was moved from a prison psychiatric facility weeks after complaining a supervising guard had assaulted her, an inquest into her death heard Wednesday.

In his evidence, Peter Guenther, former executive director of the Regional Psychiatric Centre in Saskatoon, said the incident involved a correctional supervisor, John Tarala, in March 2007.

Tarala had intervened to stop Ashley Smith from tying ligatures around her neck.

Guenther told the inquest he learned Smith complained she'd been assaulted by Tarala, claiming she was grabbed, lifted off the ground by her hair and called the C-word. Smith also alleged Tarala had stepped on her head.

"Regardless of how difficult and challenging this offender's behaviours are, the staff knew that there was nothing that justified an assault or the abuse that is alleged."

In addition, the report notes a nurse who witnessed the incident said Tarala had ordered her to falsify her report.

According to the memo, Tarala offered to resign but Guenther said he could not accept it.

"I asked Mr. Tarala if he was offering his resignation because he had done something wrong and he replied that he had been working long hours and probably did some things that he should not have done," Guenther stated in his memo.

Police were called in and laid criminal charges against Tarala. THE CANADIAN PRESS/WITH FILES FROM TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Teen could admit when guards were right to be forceful: Guenther

"I kicked the officer. Yes, I assaulted her. They did what they needed to do so I would stop."

Ashley Smith, recounting an incident to Peter Guenther during which she kicked, bit and spat on guards.

Regional Psychiatric Centre

Ashley Smith was sent to the custodial forensic psychiatry facility operated by the Correctional Service of Canada in December 2006 because prison authorities believed she would get intensive mental-health treatment there.

- RPC is the only federal correctional facility that can take female inmates with mental-health issues.
- The inquest has previously heard that prison staff at Nova Institution couldn't cope with her self-harming behaviour.
- Smith, 19, of Moncton, N.B., choked herself to death in her segregation cell in Kitchener, Ont., in October 2007.

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Normal Triglyceride Levels ☐	Elevated Triglycerides ☐	Allergies ☐
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		Inflammatory Bowel Disease ☐
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U.S. Embassy pulls Jon Stewart tweet

Morsi mocked.
The Daily Show host calls arrest of Egyptian satirist undemocratic and petty

Bassam Youssef
AMR NABIL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jon Stewart
LARRY BUSACCA/GETTY IMAGES FOR NARAS

It seems The Daily Show and diplomacy don't mix.

The U.S. Embassy in Cairo temporarily shut down its Twitter feed on Wednesday and deleted a tweet linking to a video of The Daily Show, in which host Jon Stewart mocked Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi.

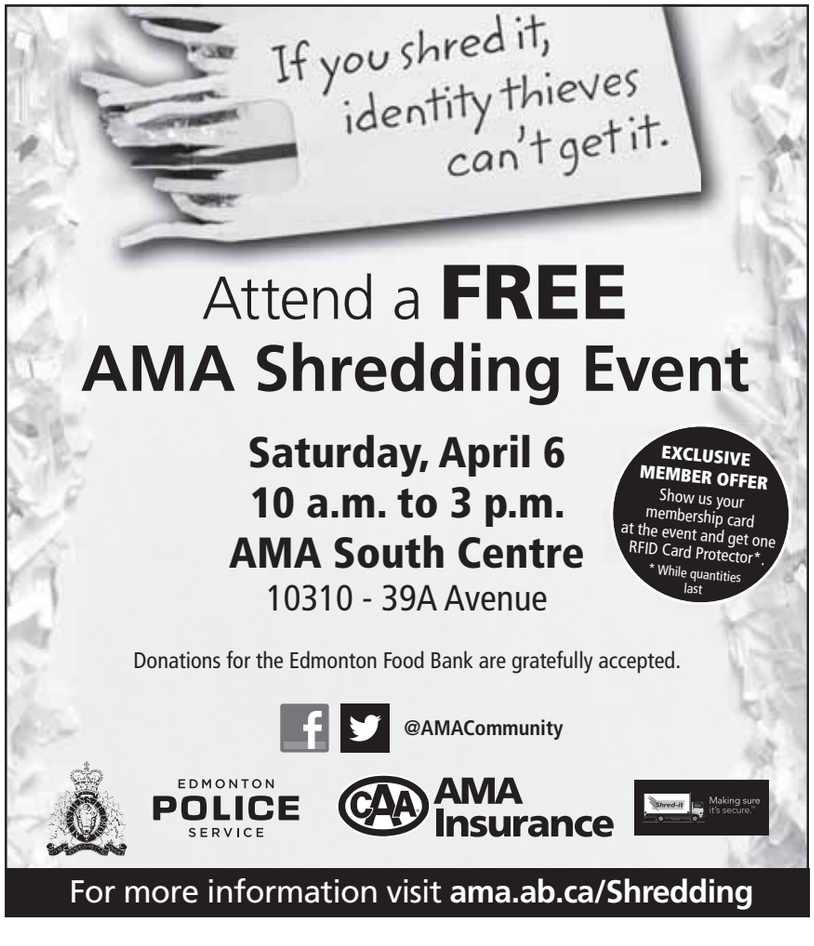
The monologue about the arrest of an Egyptian satirist known as the Jon Stewart of Egypt offended the Egyptian government and sparked an unusual diplomatic incident.

The embassy's Twitter account was deleted — and then restored minus the Stewart post — after Egyptian authorities objected to a tweet that contained a link to Stewart's Monday show in which he joked about the arrest of a high-profile satirist, Bassam Youssef, who has poked fun at Morsi, U.S. officials said.

In the clip tweeted by the embassy, Stewart came to the defence of Youssef and criticized Morsi for his arrest and interrogation as being undemocratic and petty. Youssef has been a guest on Stewart's program.

The Twitter development comes as tensions between Washington and Cairo have soared in recent days over concerns that the Egyptian government is backsliding on the protection of human rights.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Dozens killed in Argentina flooding

Torrential rains. Some 2,500 people have been evacuated from their homes, while food supplies could be threatened

At least 52 people died as flooding from days of torrential rains swamped Argentina's low-lying capital and province of Buenos Aires.

Nearly 50 people died Wednesday in and around the city of La Plata, Gov. Daniel Scioli said. Six deaths were reported a day earlier in the nation's capital. Many people climbed onto their roofs in the pouring rain after storm sewers backed up. Water surged up through drains in their kitchen and bathroom floors, and then poured in over their windowsills.

President Cristina Fernandez arrived by helicopter in Tolosa, a La Plata neighbourhood where she grew up and where her mother was among those evacuated. She announced security measures to combat vandalism, help for identifying the dead, and three days of national mourning for the victims.

She was then was surrounded by neighbours. Some hugged and thanked her. Others complained angrily and shouted at her to "go away."

The heaviest rain — almost 400 millimetres in just a few hours — hit provincial La Plata overnight. A day earlier, the capital of Buenos Aires was hit hardest. About 100 more millimetres of rain were expected before the bad weather passes on Thursday, the national weather service said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A man pushes his bike through a flooded street in La Plata, Argentina, Wednesday. NATACHA PISARENKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Accused of atrocities. U.S. places $5M bounty on Kony, top commanders

The Obama administration on Wednesday offered up to $5 million in rewards for information leading to the capture of Lord's Resistance Army chief Joseph Kony, two of his top aides and a Rwandan rebel leader suspected of crimes against humanity.

Kony is accused of ordering widespread atrocities during a brutal campaign for power that originated in Uganda in the 1980s and is wanted by the International Criminal Court. He is now believed to be hiding in the Central African Republic. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Joseph Kony in 2006. STUART PRICE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Floating for a cause

Man to take Mandela-inspired balloon ride

Nelson Mandela might not have imagined the scene planned for this month at Robben Island, where he spent 18 years as a prisoner.

Matt Silver-Vallance plans to strap himself to 200 balloons and drift to Cape Town to raise $1 million US to help build a hospital named after Mandela.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Scientists find possible hint of dark matter

Space. Discovery could help scientists understand the composition of the universe, galaxies

A $2-billion cosmic ray detector on the International Space Station has found a footprint of something that could be dark matter — the mysterious substance that is believed to hold the cosmos together but has never been directly observed, scientists say.

But the first results from the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer, known by its acronym AMS, are almost as enigmatic as dark matter itself.

They show evidence of new physics phenomena that could be the strange and unknown dark matter or could be energy that originates from pulsars, scientists at the European particle physics laboratory near Geneva announced Wednesday.

The results from the detector are significant, because dark matter is thought to make up about a quarter of all the matter in the universe. Unravelling the mystery of dark matter could help scientists better understand the composition of our universe and, more particularly, what holds galaxies together.

Nobel-winning physicist Samuel Ting, who leads the team, told colleagues at the European Organization for Nuclear Research that he expects a more conclusive answer within months about this "unexpected new phenomena." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An artist's rendering of the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer installed on the International Space Station. NASA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Contagious germs. Researchers charged in attempted smuggling

Two former federal government scientists are facing charges after one of them was caught trying to smuggle highly contagious bacteria out of the country.

Klaus Nielsen and Wei Ling Yu, both former researchers with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, are charged with breach of trust by a public officer in a scheme to commercialize agency property, the RCMP said in a statement.

Nielsen was caught on his way to the Ottawa airport last October carrying 17 vials of what turned out to be live brucella bacteria that can infect livestock and humans.

Police have not revealed the intended buyers of the material, or where Nielsen was allegedly attempting to transport it. Yu is still at large and a Canada-wide warrant has been issued for her arrest.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

China. Early signs show new bird virus likely poses a silent threat

Scientists taking a first look at the genetics of a bird-flu strain that has killed three people in China said Wednesday that the virus could be harder to track than its better-known cousin H5N1 because it might be able to spread among poultry without showing any signs.

The scientists, at several research institutes around the world, urged Chinese veterinary authorities to widely test animals and birds in affected regions to quickly detect and eliminate the H7N9 virus before it becomes widespread.

They said the virus is troubling because it can infect poultry without producing any symptoms, while seriously sickening humans.

The virus, previously known to have infected only birds, appears to have mutated, enabling it to more easily infect other animals, including pigs, which could serve as hosts and spread the virus more widely among humans, they said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Workers unload chicken containers from a truck at a wholesale market on Wednesday in Shanghai. Scientists said the H7N9 virus could be harder to track than its better-known cousin H5N1. EUGENE HOSHIKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Cold War thinking. Countries should remove weapons from ready-to-launch status, report says

Dwindling military budgets and the diminished threat of a nuclear war in Europe dictate that the United States and Russia abandon their Cold War mentality and gradually remove some nuclear weapons from ready-to-launch status, according to a report Wednesday.

The study by an international group of political, military and security experts questions the billions of dollars spent by the U.S., Russia and European nations on new nuclear-armed submarines and weapons when those countries are facing cuts and austerity measures.

Citing the current political co-operation among the countries, the report recommends that they work together on missile defence, reduce tactical nuclear weapons in Europe and develop a new strategy.

"Outdated Cold War-era security concepts and their associated weapons and military postures (in particular, mutual assured destruction and nuclear forces on prompt-launch status) continue as if the Berlin Wall had never fallen, producing a dangerous asymmetry between military capabilities and true political partnership," the report said.

Currently, the U.S. and Russia have about 5,000 nuclear weapons each, either deployed or in reserve. Both countries are on track to reduce the deployed strategic warheads to 1,550 by 2018, the number set in the New START treaty that the U.S. Senate ratified in December 2010. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Recommendations

The report highlights improved relations among the U.S., European nations and Russia, which are unlikely to be propelled into a conventional or nuclear war.

- Against that backdrop, the group argues for the U.S. and Russia to take the lead in systematically moving nuclear weapons off high-alert status, a template for France and Britain to follow.

Spain. Princess named as suspect in corruption case

Royal family. News comes following a year of bad health and bad PR for King Juan Carlos

In another blow to Spain's royal family, a court named Princess Cristina, the king's daughter, as a suspect Wednesday in a corruption case involving her husband.

The Palma de Mallorca court announced that the 47-year-old princess will be called in for questioning on April 27. She has not been charged with any offence and faces no restrictions on her freedom. Her husband, Inaki Urdangarin, a lead suspect in the investigation, has also not been charged with any crime.

The court summons is a first for a member of the king's immediate family. The Royal Palace expressed surprise at the judge's decision and would not comment about what the princess's defence will be.

The magistrate said for the investigation to be completed and to show that justice treats all equally, the princess must be questioned. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Princess Cristina and her husband Inaki Urdangarin. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

West Bank

Israeli army kills teen protester: Spokesman

Israeli forces shot and killed a teenage Palestinian protester during a clash in the West Bank late Wednesday, according to a Palestinian Red Crescent spokesman. The death raised tensions already heightened by the death of a Palestinian prisoner and renewed fighting between Israel and Gaza militants. The spokesman said a 17-year-old Palestinian was killed in a clash between the Israeli army and Palestinian stone-throwers at a checkpoint near the West Bank city of Tulkarem. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Salam Fayyad

PM out of hospital

An aide says Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad has been discharged from a West Bank hospital after undergoing two days of tests and treatment. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Coast of Alabama

Moored cruise ship breaks free in high winds

A disabled Carnival Cruise ship broke free from its mooring in Mobile, Ala., Wednesday afternoon and U.S. Coast Guard officials were searching for a missing shipyard worker whose guard shack was blown into the water.

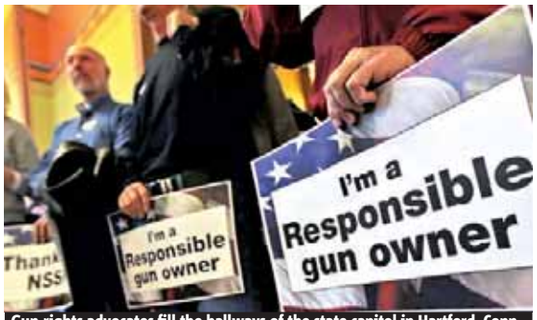
High winds in the Mobile area likely led to the ship becoming dislodged and the guard shack being blown into the Mobile River, U.S. Coast Guard officials said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mexico

7 ballerinas defect

Seven young members of the National Ballet of Cuba defected last month while on a performing tour in Mexico, an island dance official said Wednesday.

A Cuban exile blog reported that six of the seven subsequently travelled to Miami. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Gun-rights advocates fill the hallways of the state capitol in Hartford, Conn., on Wednesday. Hundreds of gun-rights advocates are gathering at the statehouse ahead of a vote in the general assembly on proposed gun-control legislation. CHARLES KRUPA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Company dismissed in Gulf oil-spill trial

A U.S. federal judge in New Orleans on Wednesday dismissed all remaining claims against the company that made a key safety device for the drilling rig that exploded in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010, killing 11 workers and leading to the nation's worst offshore oil spill.

U.S. District Judge Carl Barbier's ruling means Houston-based Cameron International is no longer a defendant in the first phase of a trial designed to identify causes of BP's well blowout and assign fault to the companies involved.

Barbier said Cameron's only role in the case was making and selling the blowout preventer on the Deepwater Horizon rig.

"Frankly, I've heard no evidence during this trial or seen no evidence to support a finding of negligence against Cameron that could have in any way caused or contributed to the accident," Barbier said, according to a transcript of Wednesday's proceedings.

BP PLC, rig owner Transocean Ltd. and cement contractor Halliburton are the only remaining defendants at the trial, which started Feb. 25.

Barbier said the evidence related to the blowout preventer's role in the disaster has been directed at BP and Transocean, which owned the device.

"These are obviously sophisticated customers," Barbier said. "They specified and selected the type of blowout preventer, the components, the arrangement of the components and made decisions. Whether those decisions in the end were right or wrong or proper or not, they made decisions as to how this blowout preventer would be configured and arranged and its capacity and so forth." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Connecticut votes on gun-control measures

Sombre debate. Bill passed the senate in a 26-10 vote, with House expected to vote later

Connecticut's senate on Wednesday approved sweeping new restrictions on weapons and large-capacity magazines, a response to last year's deadly Newtown elementary school shooting that would give the state some of the country's tightest gun control laws.

The December massacre of 26 people inside Sandy Hook Elementary School, which reignited a national debate on gun control, set the stage for changes in the state that may have been impossible elsewhere: The governor, who personally informed parents that their children had been killed that day, championed the cause, and legislative leaders, keenly aware of the attention on the state, struck a bipartisan agreement they want to serve as a national model.

"The tragedy in Newtown demands a powerful response, demands a response that transcends politics," said senate president Donald E. Williams Jr., a Democrat.

"It is the strongest and most comprehensive bill in the country."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cracking down on guns

Some of the measures in the Connecticut gun-control package include expansion of the state's assault-weapons ban, background checks for all firearms sales, and a ban on the sale or purchase of ammunition magazines holding more than 10 rounds.

Militia case. U.S. soldier charged with killing wife

An American soldier accused of plotting attacks as the leader of a militia group of malcontented army soldiers was charged by the army on Wednesday with murder in the 2011 death of his pregnant wife.

Pvt. Isaac Aguigui will face a military hearing to determine if he should be tried by court-martial for the death of his wife, army Sgt. Deirdre Aguigui, in July 2011, Fort Stewart officials in southeast Georgia said.

Months after his wife's death, civilian authorities charged Aguigui and three fellow Fort Stewart soldiers in the shooting deaths of Michael Roark, a former member of their army unit, and Roark's teenage girlfriend Tiffany York. Prosecutors alleged Aguigui feared they would expose the group. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Late 2013. Apple to launch 60-inch 'iTV,' controlled by ring, analyst says

It's no secret that Apple wants to get into the living room by making its own TV set, and there have been plenty of rumours and reports about how and when it's going to happen.

Now, an analyst says he's learned that the set will go on sale late this year for $1,500 to $2,500 US.

In a research note on Wednesday, Brian White of Topeka Capital Markets said the "iTV" will be 60 inches on the diagonal but could also come in 50- and 55-inch versions. Apple will also release a small "iRing" that fits on the viewer's finger, allowing the user to control the screen by pointing, White says.

In addition, the set will come with tablet-like "mini iTVs" with 9.7-inch screens, the same as the full-size iPad, White said. The iTV will be able to send video to the smaller screens wirelessly around the house. The concept is similar to the way in which cable and satellite TV companies are starting to let their set-top boxes send video to iPads and other tablets.

White says his report is based on gleanings from visits with unnamed Chinese and Taiwanese companies that supply Apple with components.

Apple does sell an Apple TV, but it's a small box that connects to a TV to display movies and shows from iTunes.

Apple shares rose $4.91, or 1.1 per cent, to $434.70 in midday trading, as the tech-dominated Nasdaq index fell 0.3 per cent. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Steve Jobs

Apple doesn't comment on future products before its launch events, but late company co-founder Steve Jobs told biographer Walter Isaacson that he wanted to remake the TV and had figured out a way to do it.

Hyundai, Kia recalling nearly 1.7M vehicles

Brake-light switch problems. Owners and dealers will be notified and will get free switch replacements

Korean automakers Hyundai and Kia are recalling almost 1.7 million vehicles in the U.S. and Canada to fix problems with brake-light switches.

The recall covers most of the automakers' model lineups from the 2007 through 2011 model years.

Hyundai Canada said about 255,000 vehicles are being recalled in Canada for the problem, while Kia Canada said just over 106,000 of its vehicles are involved in the recall.

According to the website of the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, a faulty switch can stop the brake lights from illuminating when drivers press on the pedal.

Also, the cruise control may not turn off when a driver steps on the brake, push-to-start buttons may not work and a feature that stops the driver from shifting out of park without a foot on the brake may fail.

"Failure to illuminate the stop lamps during braking or inability to disengage the cruise control could increase the risk of a crash," NHTSA said in the documents.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Korean automakers Hyundai and Kia announced Wednesday they're recalling cars to fix problems with brake-light switches.
NAM Y. HUH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 98.57¢ (+0.04¢)

TSX 12,422.12 (-259.98)

OIL $94.45 (-$2.74)

GOLD $1,553.50 US (-$22.40)

Natural gas: $3.967 (-0.2¢)
Dow Jones: 14,550.35 (-111.66)

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*Based on national study by BrandSpark International. Winners chosen from select new products in Canada between November 8th, 2012 – December 16th, 2012. For more information visit www.bestnewproductawards.biz
**Dates subject to change. While quantities last.

Available at Walmart

More Canadians tuning out of TV, report says

The number of "tuned out" Canadians, those who don't subscribe to conventional TV, has doubled in recent years and now represents eight per cent of the population, a new report suggests.

Since 2007, a steady four per cent of Canadians surveyed by the Media Technology Monitor reported they were tuned out.

Tuned-out Canadians either didn't have a TV set, used it only to watch VHS, DVDs or Blu-rays, or streamed digital content rather than paying for cable. They tended to be younger, highly educated and major users of the Internet, MTM says.

In the fall survey, about 49 per cent were between 18 and 34, and 51 per cent had a university education. Tuned-out Canadians spent 20 hours a week surfing the web compared to the 15.4 hours TV subscribers were online.

MTM notes the numbers of tuned-out Canadians started to rise in 2011, after those who were receiving analog over-the-air signals for free were forced to transition to a digital signal or lose access to the limited number of channels they were picking up by antenna.

According to MTM, many decided they were fine without TV, as the number of tuned-out Canadians nearly doubled to seven per cent of the population.

In 2012, the number of tuned-out Canadians rose another percentage point, which MTM attributed to the growing availability of video content to stream online via TV network websites and services such as Netflix. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS & CLAIMANTS

Estate of Thomas Thorsen who died on July 30, 2012.

If you have a claim against this Estate, you must file your claim by May 12, 2013, with Robert Thomas Thorsen, the Executor of the Estate, c/o PATON LAW OFFICE, Barristers and Solicitors, 5001- 49th Avenue, Beaumont, Alberta T4X 1E4 Attention: LINDA M. PATON, Our File: 12-5738 LMP.

If you do not file by the above date, the Estate property can lawfully be distributed without regard to any claim you may have.

CREDITORS: You must include a full description and value of the debt you allege the deceased owed you and a full description and value of any of the deceased's property that you hold as security for the debt.

CLAIMANTS: You must include a full description of your claim and why you have a right to make such a claim.

Regards, Tessa Hryckowian
Legal Assistant/Real Estate Conveyancer, Paton Law Office
5001-49 Avenue, Beaumont, AB T4X 1E4
Ph: 780-929-7770 · Fax: 780-929-6994

EARTH TO PMO: WE'RE DOOMED

HE SAYS

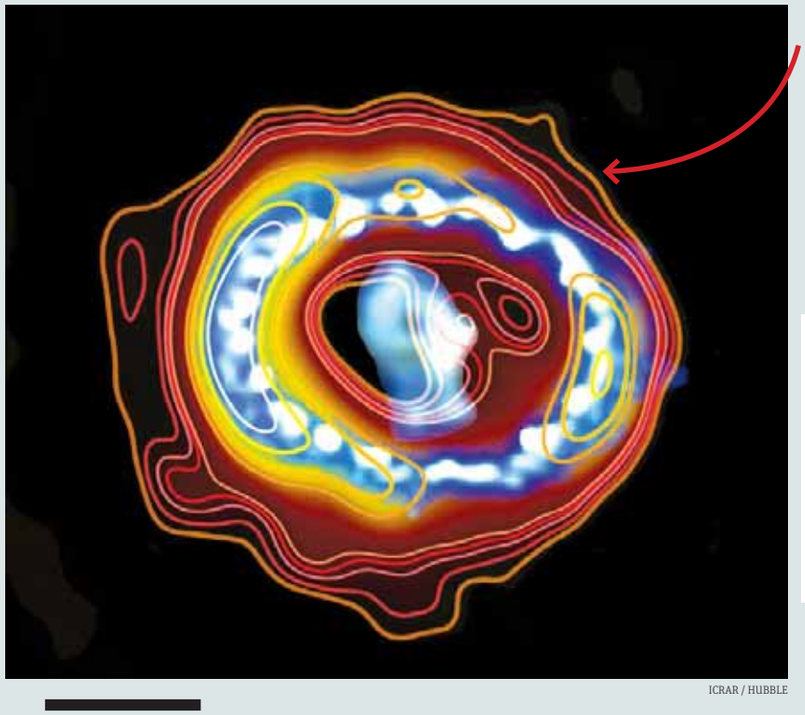
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

"If a meteor ... a mile wide were to hit land, it could form a crater and blow enough dust into the stratosphere to block out the sun and affect crops worldwide for a year, (a NASA scientist) said." — Meteor Sighting Unusual, But Space Debris is Common, the Washington Post
"The government of Prime Minister Stephen Harper has been accused of silencing scientists on a number of subjects, particularly environmental science." — Watchdog to Study Policies That "Muzzle" Government Science, The Canadian Press

Ring! Ring!
PMO: Prime Minister's Office. How can we help you become self-reliant?
CSA: This is the Canadian Space Agency. A massive meteor is headed for Canada. We have to tell people before it's too late!
PMO: Oh my God. Let me get this straight: You work for the Harper Government, and you're telling me you want to talk directly to the people? The chances are astronomical!
CSA: Uh. Yes.
PMO: As you know, the Harper Government will have to approve any statements.
CSA: The meteor is about a mile wide, could instantly kill hundreds of thousands, then starve billions when the sun is blocked. So we'll need—
PMO: I'm just going to go ahead and stop you right there. We need a different message.
CSA: What?
PMO: I've been around long enough to know that your message will turn off most demographics. Frankly, it's very negative and promotes fear.
CSA: Doesn't that mean it's perfect?
PMO: During an election campaign, sure. But right now it detracts from our promise of a "strong stable majority." Some MPs would cry. Others would run. Does that sound strong and stable? And I don't even want to think about what some of the religious backbenchers will say if they find out the world is ending.
CSA: It's going to hit in six hours! This is no time for politics.
PMO: It's always time for politics. If a big rock hits Canada on our watch and we did nothing to stop it, the Opposition will have a field day, sudden lack of fields notwithstanding. So we'd prefer you kept this one hush-hush. Unless you can blame it on Trudeau.
CSA: People are going to die!
PMO: How many?
CSA: Depending on the computer model, between 500,000 and two million.
PMO: Ah, so there's a debate even among scientists. No consensus.
CSA: It's still lots of people!
PMO: Where?
CSA: Based on its trajectory, mostly in the Greater Toronto Area.
PMO: I'm hanging up.
CSA: No wait! How about this? What if the Harper Government took credit for the meteor?
PMO: Hmmm ... the Conservative government that destroyed Toronto. I'm listening.
CSA: Not only that: We can also "explain" that the ash kicked up from the explosion is why you were never concerned about global warming in the first place.
PMO: Won't the ash destroy a lot of the environment?
CSA: That's because the Conservative's environmental plan, uh, "seeks to reduce inefficiencies in nature." We find places where 10 birds are doing a job that five birds could be doing!
PMO: Now you're getting it!
CSA: Can we tell people now?
PMO: Can we brand it The Harper Government "Rocks"?
CSA: It's the end of the world as we know it and I feel queasy.
PMO: You get used to it.

ZOOM

The death star, like never before



ICRAR / HUBBLE

Death of star in highest detail

Scientists have studied the death of a star in the highest ever detail. Astronomers led by the International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research (ICRAR) in Western Australia have revealed new images of Supernova 1987A, whose demise was first spotted over 25 years ago. METRO

Scientists now seek star's centre

Scientists study the evolution of supernovae into supernova remnants to understand the interaction of the star's blast with its surrounding environment.

They suspect a compact source or pulsar wind nebula — remnants of an old star — to be in the centre of the radio emission, implying that the supernova explosion did not make the star collapse into a black hole. METRO

A star is born?

- In 1987, astronomers observing the Large Magellanic Cloud, a nearby dwarf galaxy, noticed the sudden appearance of what looked like a new star but soon realized it was the end of a star — the brightest supernova ever seen from Earth.

Picture this

"Imaging distant astronomical objects like this at wavelengths less than one centimetre demands the most stable atmospheric conditions."

Dr. Giovanna Zanardo of ICRAR

Clickbait

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

Bandcamp is an online store that allows fans to buy music directly from the artist, with the added bonus of being able to preview entire albums for free. It also happens to be the perfect place to support Canadian artists like these:

Overwerk

Do yourself a favour and delete that Top 40 from your workout playlist. This London producer's After Hours EP conveniently checks in at a tidy 30 minutes of sweat-friendly peaks and valleys. Best of all, you can set your own price. (overwerk.bandcamp.com)

Les Soeurs Boulay

Brush up on your French with a Montreal-based sister folk act. Armed only with guitar, ukelele and velvet-voiced harmonies, the soeurs are well-equipped to break hearts. (lessoeursboulay.bandcamp.com)

Kitsune

Imagine the sound of a Nintendo console becoming self-aware and deciding to pursue a new career as a producer of club bangers. Audiences don't get much more niche, but I know you're out there. (vulpvibe.bandcamp.com)

Comments

RE: UBC Student Accused of Sex Work After Trying to Cross U.S. Border With Condoms, published April 2

How do you spell "discrimination"!?
Shirley Mclaughlin posted via Storify

"How much is he paying you to go on this trip?" Shame on them.
Cynthia Kim posted via Storify

Who cares if she's a sex worker?
Paul Nagy posted via Storify

Like crossing DMZ into North Korea.
Mal Cohen posted via Storify

I hope she sues their pants off!!!
Jonathan Hodder posted via Storify

WTF.... I guess us Canadians don't have sex.
Joann Neish posted via Storify

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU: Send us your comments: edmontonletters@metronews.ca

metro

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SCENE 2

Rapid Fire Theatre improvises their second annual Bonfire Festival starting April 9 at the Citadel. ANDREW PAUL / RAPID FIRE THEATRE

Rapid Fire Theatre's festival to light a Bonfire under audiences

Improv. Performance highlights include an improvised newscast, electro acoustic set and long-distance relationship skit

JENNIFER LARAWAY
Jennifer Laraway
edmonton@metronews.ca

"The coolest thing about our ensemble is they pitch the ideas for the festival," says Amy Shostak, artistic director for Rapid Fire Theatre, on how the concept of the Bonfire Festival came together in the first place.

This year marks the company's second crack at the festival, named for gathering performers together to entertain the masses.

Shostak has the daunting task of determining which ideas make the final cut. "I really wanted to give the audience variety, so the collaboration from the artists is great. But, it's my job to figure out which ideas will be most interesting for the audience and who to cast."

Performance highlights for this year include: Rapid Fire Theatre News, an improvised newscast where members of the audience can bring in headlines to give to the actors (hello Anchorman); an electro acoustic set with local musicians; and a long-distance relationship skit featuring a live Skype "date" with improvisers from Winnipeg's Outside Joke theatre.

Known for their annual Improvaganza Festival, which features some of the best improvisers across North America, Shostak and her team wanted a way to feature their in-house talent.

"We thought it would be great if we could give those actors with two or three years of experience more stage time with our senior performers," says Shostak.

"We meet once or twice before the show to explore the genre, but all the content is improvised on opening night."

It's a light-hearted approach to keeping everyone fresh and on their toes throughout the performance season.

"Part of the challenge with Bonfire for our actors is that the structure is so different from our weekly performances, but last year went really well so I am looking forward to showing the audience what we have lined up this time."

While the cast and crew make their final preparations, audience members can purchase festival passes in advance through Tix on the Square for $30. The Bonfire Festival runs April 9 to 14 at the Citadel Theatre (9828-101A Ave.). Additional information is available through rapidfiretheatre.com.

About the theatre

- Rapid Fire Theatre is Edmonton's longest running improv theatre.
- The company is a registered member of the International Theatresports Institute.
- They have won awards in improv and comedy competitions across the world.

Ryan Tedder pushes producer pride aside

OneRepublic. Band's frontman talks about the stress of handing over some of the creative reins on latest album

Ryan Tedder and his band OneRepublic released their third album last week.

Ryan Tedder has been the mastermind behind hits for Adele, Beyoncé and Leona Lewis, but on his band's new album, the Grammy winner gets help from other hit-makers.

Tedder's name is all over the credits on Native, OneRepublic's third album, released last Tuesday.

But other players helped shape the band's latest sound, including Benny Blanco, who co-produced hits like Maroon 5's Moves Like Jagger and Katy Perry's Teenage Dream, and Jeff Bhasker, who produced fun.'s Grammy-winning breakthrough album, Some Nights.

"I was very clear with them," said Tedder, who added that taking a back seat to other producers was both "scary and exciting."

"I was like, 'We're not Maroon 5. We're not fun.'"

OneRepublic's lead single, If I Lose Myself, was co-produced by Blanco, and Bhasker adds his drum-filled sound to Can't Stop. The album also features producer Philippe Zdar, best known for his work with French critical darlings Phoenix.

In an interview, Tedder, 33, talked about collaborating with other artists, the state of rock music on Top 40 radio and Native, which OneRepublic recorded in Greece, Paris, London, New York, Seattle, Vancouver, Canada and Colorado.

You've produced for many acts. What was it like having others come into your musical space?

I happened to work with Benny and Bhasker in the middle of, probably the both of them, the greatest run of hits in their lives. ... I don't want the one time I go outside my box and collaborate with somebody to be the song that doesn't work. You're always, like, slightly terrified. ... No offence to them, but I didn't want their palate or their sound to then define us.

So how did you work everything out?

The one Bhasker did and one of the two Benny did, I knew fundamentally I'm not the guy to do this. I'm not the right producer to do this record. I'm not getting it right.

This record sounds like such a huge, huge, important moment and I'm missing it. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brian Baker says playing the guitar has never lost its lustre. GETTY IMAGES

Bad Religion finds their True North

'Happy accident.' Guitarist Brian Baker attributes longevity of band to zany songwriting and its loyal fans

BRIAN HORGEA
Metro World News in New York

Bad Religion's 16th album, True North, is being heralded as a return to form, harkening back to their style from the late '80s. But guitarist Brian Baker says that's just a "happy accident."

"There's never any conception, any preconceived idea, about what a Bad Religion record is going to be," he says. "The lyrical aggression on this record is what begat the tempos of the short songs."

For 33 years, the band has weathered lineup changes, hiatuses, major labels and mainstream recognition. They have forged a sound that builds upon hard-core punk while adding doses of pop, heavy metal and psychedelia to their insightful and socially-conscious lyrics.

Baker attributes the band's longevity to the adventurous songwriting of Brett Gurewitz and Greg Graffin. "This has never been a band to sort of lay back and try to sell some T-shirts," he says.

Baker says the fans are also a large part of the equation. "When you have a band with our history, it's nice to be able to play new See Again Without Glasses! stuff and have it still be relevant to the audience," he says, "instead of them pacing themselves, waiting to hear No Control."

But even if it weren't for the fans, the 48-year-old Baker insists he'd still be doing what he does. "Playing guitar has exactly the same physical rush and emotional intensity it did when I was 15 years old," he says. "It's something I would do if no one came to watch."

Slim down for Spring

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Jane Levy gets gruesome in horror heroine role

Evil Dead. Facing relentless blood baths and being buried alive was all in a day's work for actress

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Jane Levy wants to make one thing clear: "I'm not a horror fan," she says. Well, for a non-fan she's picked a doozy of a horror film to be in: Evil Dead, Fede Alvarez's remake of Sam Raimi's cult classic debut. In this update, we still have five kids going to a cabin in the woods and inadvertently unleashing a demonic spirit after reading from an evil, enchanted book. Only this time, instead of being on Spring Break the co-eds are out in the woods to help Levy's Mia withdraw from heroin. Thanks to updates in both practical and digital effects, the new film reaches a gruesomeness level that's truly attention-grabbing.

Have you been finding this movie easy to talk about in interviews?
What's good is we're all excited about it actually, and I think we're all really proud of it. So it's nice to talk about stuff that you're proud of. It's so painful when both (the actor and the interviewer) are like, "We know it sucks, so why are we here?"

It's nice to see a horror movie handle the credibility questions of plot so well, like why these kids would go to this creepy remote cabin in the woods in the first place.
Yeah, I don't know if I would ... I was going to say if I was going to withdraw from heroin I don't know if I'd go to the middle of the forest, but some people would! I like that theme because it also becomes a metaphor for the whole story, and also because it makes for good drama. You sort of understand everyone's point of view, and I think that's the best kind of play or movie or television show or piece of literature, when every character's argument is right. Mia's right, there is something in the f—ing woods! But they're right to not trust her. The only person who isn't much right is Eric (Lou Taylor Pucci) for reading from the book. It's all his fault.

There are some differences between this one and the original. Did you watch it for research?
I watched the original, but only after I'd gotten the job. I'd never even heard of the Evil Dead when I went out for this movie. I'd heard of Sam Raimi. I mean, Spider-Man was my generation. The first one came out when I was, like, 12 or something.

What did you think of some of the more horrific elements when you were reading the script?
When I was reading it I thought it would be so much fun! Little did I know that it's torturous. But I remember reading it and being like, "Oh my God, this is the horror of all horrors. It's just relentless, it never stops. And when you think it's gotten to its peak it's just going to keep going." When I was reading it I thought it was almost funny. It just becomes so terrible that you have to laugh. But I wasn't laughing when I was making it, that's for sure.

Buried memories

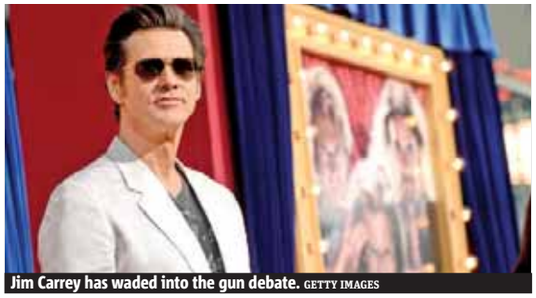
Jane Levy dishes on the worst parts of making the Evil Dead — and it wasn't being forced to wear special contact lenses.

- The contacts were OK. There were so many bad things that at a certain point you just get used to it, but I think being buried alive was probably the hardest. It takes a lot of power to get your mind to feel like you're not going to die, you know?

Jane Levy stars in Evil Dead, which opens Friday. HANDOUT

Carrey takes aim at gun lobby

Controversy. Star criticized for Charlton Heston parody



Jim Carrey has waded into the gun debate. GETTY IMAGES

Jim Carrey has spoken out again in favour of gun control, even as he says that critics have heaped hatred upon him and his family.

The 51-year-old comic actor, born and raised near Toronto, has written a new op-ed for the Huffington Post in which he urges further gun control measures and takes aim at critics who have attacked him for his position.

Carrey found controversy last week after issuing a Funny or Die video satirizing the gun lobby with an unflattering impression of late actor and former National Rifle Association president Charlton Heston. In the clip, he trilled a song called Cold Dead Hand. Meanwhile, he posted combative messages about the gun lobby's resistance to regulation on Twitter.

In his op-ed, he argues that recent mass shootings should be "an invitation for us to become more civilized and deal with our addiction and entitlement to violence."

Carrey says he is not asking any Americans to surrender their right to bear arms, but is concerned about the "type of arms" and the "easy access" to the weapons. "I disagree wholeheartedly with those who say that there are just too many guns out there to control and that more gun laws won't make a difference," he writes.

"Change must start someplace. I'm pretty sure that no worthwhile endeavor has ever been accomplished without a beginning and reducing gun violence in America is a worthwhile endeavor."

Carrey added he was "aghast" at the hatred that had been spewed toward him, his family and those who work with him, part of what he views as an effort to "brutally intimidate anyone who speaks of a compassionate compromise."

The loose-limbed funnyman went on address threats he's apparently received about the "demise of (his) acting career and much worse."

"I say SO BE IT! How shallow do they think I am? I would trade my money, my fame, my reputation and legacy if there were the slightest chance of preventing the anguish of another Columbine, Virginia Tech, Aurora, or Sandy Hook Elementary School. I ask you, truly, what manner of human being would not?"

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Beyoncé. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Beyoncé brushes off latest round of criticism

Beyoncé has heard what her critics have to say — particularly about her decision to name her new tour the Mrs. Carter Show — and she's just going to ignore them.

"I guess I am a modern-day feminist," she muses to British Vogue. "Why do you have to choose what type of woman you are? Why do you have to label yourself anything? I'm just a woman, and I love being a woman."

As for taking husband Jay-Z's last name for her tour?

"I feel like Mrs. Carter is who I am, but more bold and more fearless than I've ever been," she says.

David Beckham

Beckham wants a normal life for his kids

Despite being possibly the most famous man in the world, David Beckham is desperate for his four kids to have a normal a life as possible — even though that can be pretty tricky sometimes.

"My eldest now is at the age where he wants to do things and go to places, and we have to hold him back," Beckham tells CNN World Sport about 14-year-old Brooklyn.

"You have to explain to him that there are certain things he can't do. But to be honest, we let our children do 99 per cent of the things they want to do because we want them to lead a normal life."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Glee trying to put on a brave face amidst latest scandal

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

It's been a week of shake-ups for the cast of Glee.

First, it was announced that main cast member Cory Monteith was admitted to rehab on Monday morning for a substance abuse problem and now it looks like Heather Morris, who portrays the ditzy cheerleader Brittany on the hit show, is pregnant.

Us Weekly broke the news that the 26-year-old is expecting a baby with her longtime boyfriend Taylor Hubbell. "She's a little more than three months along and starting to show," the source tells Us Weekly. "It was totally unexpected, but they are incredibly happy and excited."

Keep her off the dance numbers, Glee!

Chris Brown

Chris Brown feels bad for Bieber

Chris Brown feels Justin Bieber's pain.

When asked during an interview with radio station Power 105.1 how he copes with paparazzi attention, Brown says: "It's sort of like what Justin Bieber's going through right now... Being young, having a limitless amount of income, whatever you want to do as a young guy, and then at the same time you don't have nobody that's going to say, 'Hey bro, you look wack right now.'"

Brown is particularly worried Bieber's friends — like rapper Lil Twist — will get an undue amount of blame for any of the pop star's troubles.

Twitter

@ABFalecbaldwin
Am I really 55? Wow. Like.....wow. Doesn't seem real.

@NiallOfficial
Morning. ! This is it ! I'm goin to the dentist! I think this is my last hour with braces! Oh how I'm gona miss them ! Naaaaaaat !

@SethRogen
Of all the TV shows I've never seen, I've never seen "The Borgias" the most.

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART

Ain't no sunshine, but there is style

Spring collections should be the main storyline, but it's as cold as ever outside. So rather than freezing your legs off trying to wear that flimsy dress, take a few cues from the autumn/winter shows that just wrapped up earlier this month.

KENYA HUNT
kenya.hunt@metro.lu

Soft pinks

On the runway: Unique

Whistles jacquard trousers, $206, whistles.co.uk

Topshop mix stitch pink jumper, $72, topshop.com

Houndstooth

On the runway: Rag & Bone

Houndstooth scarf $40, zara.com

By Malene Birger Sarafina trousers, $395, netaporter.com

Navy and black

On the runway: Jil Sander

Jil Sander Navy skirt, $660 stylebop.com

Acne Ava black top, $250, acnestudios.com

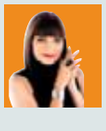
The full skirt

On the runway: Rochas

ASOS midi skirt, $68, asos.com

Marni organdy circle skirt, $1,280, net-a-porter.com

Twitter



JEANNE SPACE
Jeanne Beker
life@metronews.ca

TWITTER HAS BECOME A COOL AND SUCCINCT WAY OF COMMUNICATING. IT ALLOWS ME TO BE ACCESSIBLE, INSTANTLY SPEAK MY MIND AND CONNECTS ME WITH ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE. WHETHER IT'S A FASHION QUESTION OR YOU JUST WANT TO COMMENT ON LIFE'S BIGGER PICTURE, I'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

Ah yachts! This must be St. Barths! @silversea

Chic ship chapeaux! @ Silversea with the inimitable @NicholasMe

The Kit

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Halifax

Sarah Nussbaumer

Hedge fund administrator

Age: 25

What she's wearing
Top Shop coat, Rebecca Minkoff bag, French Connection headband, gloves from Florence Levi's jeans, Steve Madden boots.

Her inspiration
"I love to wear classic and feminine silhouettes with pieces that have a bit of edge and playfulness."

THE KIT PHOTOBLOGGER: MEGHAN TANSEY WHITTON, FASHIONEASTHALIFAX.COM

THE KIT IS A MULTI-PLATFORM BEAUTY AND FASHION BRAND WHICH INCLUDES AN INTERACTIVE MAGAZINE AND DYNAMIC APP, A WEBSITE, KIT CHAT – AN E-NEWSLETTER PROGRAM – AND A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER SECTION TOO!

The business of dressing the bump

Fashion. Never mind comfort, Kim Kardashian's maternity wardrobe is an exercise in branding

KENYA HUNT
Metro World News

Let that baby breathe!
JB LACROIX / WIREIMAGE

We can't deny Kim looks beautiful, but would she give us a bigger smile if we threw her a pair of jogging pants? CHRIS MCKAY / WIREIMAGE

Just when you thought her maternity choices couldn't look any more uncomfortable, Kim Kardashian goes shopping in a body-con dress, its leather stretched to the absolute limit, and stilettos — an outfit that would make even the average, un-pregnant woman look like she's trying too hard. But before we get into Mother Kimye's pregnancy wear, let's establish this fact:

1. The Kardashians are unbeatable at the game of being famous for being famous.
2. The Kardashians have been known to mine their personal lives for reality TV and publicity in general.
3. Kim is a Kardashian.

Now that we've gotten that out of the way, let's look at that leather. The tighter the squeeze around Kim's bump and the higher the heels, the more we talk about it. It's a pop culture moment that advances the plot line of Kim's celebrity as clearly as an episode of Keeping Up with the Kardashians.

The average pregnant woman dresses for comfort. But increasingly, the average famous pregnant woman dresses strategically as the bump becomes another opportunity for personal branding (Jessica Simpson), record sales (Beyoncé) and public obsession (Miranda Kerr). Yes, Kim claims that flats hurt her back and that heels are the most comfortable shoe for her to wear. But the tape wrapped around her feet says otherwise. It's not hard to imagine the ways she'll push this idea further as her final trimester approaches. What next? Hot pants and a bustier? Somewhere, her marketing team is probably taking notes.

Boy, you need a break

RICHARD PECKETT
Metro World News

Men, it's time to down the winter woolly pulleys and get your wardrobe in spring holiday mode. First, remember it's spring, not summer. So you're going to need some layers: a sweater, jacket and yes, some chinos. Secondly, you've got to get the luggage right. You're packing for a weekend break not a picnic. So pop the day bag away and, yes, that enormous backpacking rucksack.

Cutler and Gross

Circular lens sunglasses, $548, ln-cc.com.

Christopher Shannon

Kidda T-shirt with flag print, $119, asos.com.

CHUCS

Classic clasp swimshort in Corbusier red, $220, chucs.com.

Orlebar Brown

Mitchell cagoule, $495, orlebarbrown.com.

Ladies, we're here for you!

Spring is here, even if it doesn't quite feel like it yet.

But for those of you brave enough to pack away your clunky boots, head online to Trendscaping and take a look at this season's latest in high-end fashionable footwear and decide which style you will splurge on to step into spring.

metronews.ca/voices/trendscaping

Available at Walmart

New ways to decorate your wall space

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

I often hear people say living in a small space doesn't allow for much decorating, and how accessories take up too much room. I remind them they don't need to rely on tabletops and floor space to display their wares, but to look vertically at the walls. Walls are probably the largest surface we have and there are many ways to dress them up with more than just flat art and mirrors.

Not since the Ikea floating display shelf have we seen such interesting inventions to add pizzazz to our vertical space. Dressing up the walls can be as simple as colour locking certain areas with some paint or creating a feature wall with a collection of artwork. If you are looking for an immediate, easy way to dress the walls, here's a few on-trend products that add a special touch.

Urbio system

It's vertical, modular, magnetic and flexible. Hang system panels on the wall, then attach individual containers using magnets. Useful for a wall of green, art supplies or whatever you want to display. From $75, eq3.com.

Learn to write chalkboard

Finally a way to write on the walls without getting in trouble. Leave messages, make lists or practise your ABC's. Stick on, erasable chalk boards uses any chalk. Easy to install by just peeling and sticking and reposition when you want to move them. $20 for four peel and stick panel decals, wallpops.com.

Wall mounted teardrop vase

This handblown chemistry lab borosilicate beaker glass in a teardrop shape hangs via a cut and polished opening. One can be hung beside the guest bed and another in the shower. These guys add charm wherever they go. $5, cb2.com.

Architect wall flats

Get the look of a cool hotel lobby lounge wall by adding depth and dimension to your walls with paintable panels. Hide rough walls or outdated panelling, leave them white or paint them to match a colour in your space. $115 for 10 panels, urbanmode.com.

GRUNDTAL wall system

A simple rod and attachments can be useful anywhere; from the home office to the bath to the kitchen. Stylish stainless steel adds a rich modern look to very affordable display storage. $8 to $25 per piece, ikea.com.

How to create the perfect backsplash

DIY ideas. Host of Kitchen Crashers shares tips to get you started on the project

Be your own weekend warrior and get started on your dream backsplash for your kitchen.

An easy fix to dull kitchens, backsplashes add a design element along with adding depth and colour. Kitchens tend to look the same in every home, so this is your chance to stand out.

Since host Alison Victoria of Kitchen Crashers can't take over for you this weekend, here are some tips to do it yourself.

Prepare the wall

Remove all switch plates and outlet covers. Sand the wall lightly, then wipe off the dust with a damp towel.

Mark the wall measurements and where you want your centre focus to be.

Dry lay out the design on your floor within the measurements to make sure it fits.

Apply Tiles

Using mastic, which is the adhesive that holds the tiles into place, scoop it out with the edge of your v-notched trowel and use a sweeping motion, applying enough for an area of eight tiles.

Apply bottom up from the base of the counter top. Leave enough space between the tile and the counter edge for a bead of caulking that takes place at the end. Work out in both directions.

If the mastic dries too fast before you apply tiles on top, scrape it off and apply a new layer. Don't be afraid to use materials other than tiles — small glass stones, old broken china and even pennies are fun options.

Trim the tiles

Some tiles won't fit perfectly to the edges and nooks your kitchen cupboards create. Mark where the cut needs to be made and do so using a wet saw. If you are inexperienced you can go to a hardware store to get them cut for you.

Fill with grout

Let the mastic and tile application dry overnight.

The next day mix and apply your unsanded tile grout according to the box directions. Pack the grout deep in between the tiles but not between the tile and the countertops.

Clean and caulk

After applying grout to the entire backsplash, wipe the surface clean with water and a towel.

Let the grout dry for 30 to 45 minutes. Once the grout dries, take a dry towel to clean and shine tiles. Apply caulking the same colour as the grout between tiles, and open spaces from the counter and cupboards to the tile; smooth down with a wet finger.

AN ALL-NEW SEASON OF KITCHEN CRASHERS PREMIERES TODAY AT 5:30 P.M. ET/2:30 P.M. PT ON DIY NETWORK CANADA

Adding a backsplash will give your kitchen depth and colour. ISTOCK IMAGES

Maintaining good oral health includes keeping your teeth free from cavities and preventing periodontal disease, which has been linked to several other diseases. FIONLINE/THINKSTOCK

Healthy teeth equals healthy living

TERESA CHIYKOWSKI
For Metro

Did you know that oral health is not only important to your appearance and sense of well-being, but also to your overall health?

It's true.

Problems such as missing teeth or oral infections can affect your physical and mental health. That's all the more reason to practise good oral hygiene and look after those healthy pink gums and dazzling pearly whites.

Smile

- Visit hc-sc.gc.ca to download a copy of Smile: Healthy Teeth, Healthy Body. The publication will help you better understand the link between oral health and overall health, help you establish an effective oral health plan, and ensure you have information about the risks and symptoms of oral cancer.

Maintaining good oral health includes keeping your teeth free from cavities and preventing periodontal disease, which has been linked to several other diseases including:

Diabetes: People with diabetes are more susceptible to gum disease, which can put them at greater risk of diabetic complications.

Respiratory illness: The same bacteria found in plaque can also be inhaled into the lungs where they may cause an infection or aggravate any existing lung condition, especially in older adults.

Preterm, low birth-weight babies: Studies are also examining whether pregnant women with gum disease may be at a higher risk of delivering preterm, low birth-weight babies than women without gum disease.

Cardiovascular disease: There is new research that points to a possible connection between gum disease and heart disease and stroke.

Brush up with these tips

1. Brush your teeth at least twice a day.
2. Floss daily to remove plaque between your teeth.
3. Replace your toothbrush every three to four months.
4. Use an antimicrobial mouth rinse to reduce bacteria in your mouth.
5. Schedule regular dental checkups.
6. Eat a healthy diet according to Eating Well with Canada's Food Guide.
7. Watch for signs of oral disease and contact your dentist if you detect anything out of the ordinary.

To learn more about dental care, visit the Canadian Dental Association website at cda-adc.ca.

If you pay a little extra attention to daily oral hygiene habits when children are young, they can grow up cavity-free. NEWS CANADA

Children. Daily habits to grow up with

Even today, with advancements in oral care, it is estimated that 57 per cent of kids aged six to 11 have cavities. This number increases to 59 per cent for teenagers.

Specialists tell us, however, that if we pay just a little extra attention to daily oral hygiene habits, all children can grow up cavity-free. The care you teach them now will last a lifetime, so take a look at these helpful tips:

Twelve to 24 months

Begin regular dental visits by age one. Teach a toddler about dental hygiene when the first teeth come through. Children should get used to holding a toothbrush and should watch others as they brush. Let them practise brushing, but continue brushing their teeth for them. Begin flossing when most of the baby teeth are in.

Two to five years

Teach young children to use no more than a pea-size amount of toothpaste and make sure they do not eat it. Continue to brush and floss their teeth for them. Avoid sugary sweet treats.

Six and older

Encourage children to begin flossing. Your dental hygienist will demonstrate proper technique. Continue to supervise brushing and flossing. The surface of your child's permanent molars may be sealed with a light coating to prevent cavities in the deep fissure and grooves of the teeth.

NEWS CANADA

YOUR SIMPLE ROUTINE TO A BETTER DENTAL CHECK-UP.†

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Wrapping up a burst of flavours

"If you make extras to take for lunch the next day," writes Meghan Telpner of these Veggie Rice Wraps in her book UnDiet, "store in an airtight container with a slightly damp cloth or paper towel to help keep the rice wraps moist."

1. Soak one piece of rice paper in warm water until soft. Carefully remove, allow excess water to drain, and lay out on flat surface.

2. Arrange veggies in a row along centre of rice paper. Add greens last (and eggs, if using). On first few attempts, fewer veggies will be easier to roll.

3. Leave about 1-inch (4 cm) at both ends and carefully roll the wrap up, leaving long edges open. You'll take care of those with the second piece of rice paper.

4. Soak and drain a second piece of rice paper, and lay out on flat surface.

5. Place roll along centre of second piece of rice paper, folding end edges in first and then roll in remaining sides.

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Ingredients

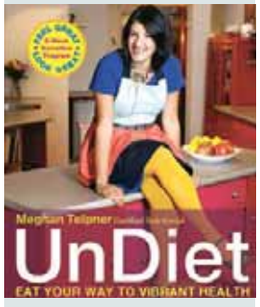
- 8 sheets rice paper
- 1 avocado, peeled and sliced lengthwise
- 1 carrot, grated
- 1/2 red bell pepper, sliced lengthwise
- 1/2 red apple, peeled and sliced into matchsticks
- 4 inches (10 cm) cucumber, sliced into long strips
- 1 (250 ml) cup baby spinach
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) cabbage, shredded
- 4 sprigs cilantro
- 2 organic eggs, whisked in a bowl, cooked as an omelet, then sliced into thin strips (optional)

Veggie Rice Wraps

This recipe serves 4 as a side or 2 as a meal. CATHERINE FARQUHARSON

Cookbook of the Week

Tasty way to health



Forget those diets that never work and get healthy with the help of Meghan Telpner's book UnDiet.

Not only does it feature practical nutrition information, a complete eight-week transition program, lifestyle advice from experts and a comprehensive meal plan, but also 40 easy and delectable gluten-free recipes.

Among the recipes in UnDiet are Bean and Vegetable Burgers, Lemon Lentil Vegetable Soup, Orange-Zest Infused Stew, Almond Power Cookies, Sun-Dried Tomato and Bean Hummus, and more. METRO

One-Pot Stir-fry includes your fave veggies

"With any stir-fry or mixed-grain salad, try to cut all your veggies about the same size so they cook evenly," writes Meghan Telpner in her book UnDiet. "Watch out for when ingredients are added in with one-pot meals; some are added later, depending on cooking time."

1. In a large skillet on medium, heat oil and a little water, and add turmeric, garlic, and ginger. Let cook for 1 minute or until fragrant.

2. Add all vegetables except leafy greens and stir. Add sesame oil, raw honey, and tamari, and sauté for 8 minutes, until the veggies are vibrant.

3. Push veggies to the edge of the frying pan and pour eggs into the middle opening. Allow to cook undisturbed for about 2 minutes. Mix together. If using tofu, add to pan, stir into the mix and let cook 3 - 4 minutes.

4. Add greens and let them wilt in the heat.

5. Add sea salt and cayenne to taste.

6. Serve vegetable mixture on top of grains or mixed greens.

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp (30 ml) extra virgin olive oil
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) water, as needed, to avoid sticking
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) turmeric
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 inches (5 cm) ginger root, peeled and minced
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) red pepper, sliced
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) carrot, grated or thinly peeled
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) each of coarsely chopped broccoli florets, broccoli stems, cauli flower, purple cabbage, and zucchini
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) sesame oil
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) raw honey
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) tamari (or to taste)
- 4 organic eggs or 1/2 block of firm organic tofu, cubed
- 3 cups (750 ml) collards or greens of choice
- sea salt and cayenne to taste
- 2 cups (500 ml) leftover grains (optional)

This recipe serves 4 as a meal and 6 as a side dish. CATHERINE FARQUHARSON

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4 SPORTS

On Wednesday

Edmonton stomps Flames in Calgary

Taylor Hall had a goal and four assists Wednesday night as the Edmonton Oilers made it five straight wins with an 8-2 rout of the reeling Calgary Flames.

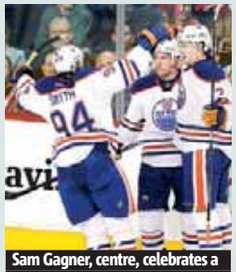
It wasn't that long ago when the Flames dominated the provincial rivalry, having won 16 of 17 games.

But Edmonton has been the better team lately, winning four of the last five including both ends of the recent home-and-home series to move them past the St. Louis Blues for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

With 12 games to go, Edmonton sits eighth in the West, one point up on the Blues and the Nashville Predators. The Columbus Blue Jackets are two points back.

The Oilers are looking to make their first post-season appearance since going all the way to the Stanley Cup final in 2006, before losing in seven games to the Carolina Hurricanes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Sam Gagner, centre, celebrates a goal against the Calgary Flames with Ryan Smyth and Jeff Petry. LARRY MACDOUGAL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oilers keep talent intact, pick up vet

Trade deadline. Quiet Wednesday a loud vote of confidence in young squad

The Oilers acquired veteran forward Jerred Smithson from the Florida Panthers for a draft pick. BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

With Edmonton riding a win streak that has them back in playoff contention, Oilers general manager Steve Tambellini went into Wednesday's trade deadline looking more to send the right message than to make any moves.

He did make one deal, though, obtaining veteran forward Jerred Smithson from the Florida Panthers for a fourth-round draft pick — a move he sees as giving the Oilers some desperately needed help in the faceoff circle.

But he said after the deadline passed that trading any of the Oilers' core players would have sent the wrong message at the wrong time.

"The last thing I wanted to do was take away something where they thought maybe they didn't have as good a chance to win as they did the day before," said Tambellini.

"Yes, there were a lot of different scenarios where I could have moved people for mid-round picks, maybe a little higher in a couple of circumstances, but that wasn't my goal coming into this deadline.

"It was to find somehow to not take away from the depth of our dressing room, or the people we have asked to compete so hard to get to this spot, to show them we trust this group. That was an important message in itself."

One of the players often mentioned in trade talks was veteran defenceman Ryan Whitney, who was benched a couple of times earlier this season. But he's been a strong performer in recent games, which influenced Tambellini to keep him.

"Two things," Tambellini said. "One, the fact that he's playing well. Two, his ability to move the puck is something we desperately need. We have skilled forwards who demand the puck at the right time. I didn't see anywhere in the day where I thought I could replace that type of puck-moving D. That would be a real takeaway that would have affected our hockey club."

Tambellini said he had some significant discussions with various teams but nothing that involved moving any of the Oilers' core players. Partly, he said, because he's in a mindset of adding to the group without losing any of the young, skilled players.

Adding Smithson fits that scenario and both he and coach Ralph Krueger see him as a significant addition.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Veteran presence

"He brings us size and strength in the faceoff circle. He can play centre, he can play wing, so he's a versatile guy." **Oilers general manager Steve Tambellini** on veteran acquisition Jerred Smithson

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Oilers come out of trade deadline above par

THE HOCKEY NEWS
Ryan Kennedy
edmonton@metronews.ca

Despite trade rumours, defenceman Ryan Whitney will remain an Edmonton Oiler. JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Oilers made an addition during this year's largely underwhelming trade-deadline day, but couldn't make a subtraction. With the dust settled, defenceman Ryan Whitney is still with Edmonton, even if his role with the team is largely ornamental.

The suddenly surging Copper and Blue did pick up centre Jerred Smithson from the flailing Florida Panthers and, with a playoff spot now in sight, the utility player will have a positive impact. Smithson brings faceoff acumen, grit and responsibility to a forward corps better known for offensive flash. This will be particularly useful down the stretch when a defensive-zone faceoff can mean the difference between two points, no points, or, as has often been the case in recent years, depriving a rival of a point if the game is pushed into overtime or a shootout. Since the Oilers didn't surrender anything from their roster in return, it's a pretty straightahead win for the squad.

Would it have been nice to get something in return for jettisoning Whitney? Sure, but the silver lining is that he is at least depth for the Oilers should the team make the playoffs. At this point it's hard to imagine Edmonton doing any sort of damage in the post-season, especially if Chicago is the first-round opponent, but like I said — silver lining. Whitney's not hurting the team right now.

There was brief chatter before the deadline that Nikolai Khabibulin would be moved to Toronto, a team that flirted with fellow Northwestern keepers Roberto Luongo and Miikka Kiprusoff. This actually would have been an excellent opportunity for the Oilers if they had managed to finagle Maple Leafs backup Ben Scrivens in return, but that probably wouldn't have happened unless Edmonton tossed in a couple of picks. Back in the land of reality, Devan Dubnyk is the horse Edmonton will continue to ride (Scrivens would have been a backup with platoon potential) and with the post-season a possibility, it will be fun to see how the Oilers play now that the deadline is behind them.

This team is still built for the present and near future, so let's see what they can do in the next dozen games.

NHL

Blue Jackets go all-in at trade deadline

Columbus Blue Jackets rookie general manager Jarmo Kekalainen made an unexpected splash on Wednesday at the NHL trade deadline.

The Finnish-born Kekalainen — the NHL's first European general manager — acquired sniper Marian Gaborik from the New York Rangers before the deadline.

"He has been an elite goal scorer in this league for many years and we are very excited to have him," Kekalainen said.

Columbus also received defencemen Blake Parlett and Steve Delisle from the Rangers for forwards Derick Brassard and Derek Dorsett, defenceman John Moore and a 2014 sixth-round pick.

Gaborik has been disappointing this season, his fourth with the Rangers, as he has only nine goals and 19 points in 35 games.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

First win just out of reach for Toronto Blue Jays

Mark Reynolds homered off Sergio Santos in the 11th inning to lift the Cleveland Indians to a 3-2 win over the offensively challenged Toronto Blue Jays on Wednesday night.

The Cleveland designated hitter was 0-for-4 with two strikeouts before the solo shot off Santos (0-1), the Jays' sixth pitcher of the night, to lead off the 11th.

Melky Cabrera, Jose Bautista and Edwin Encarnacion — the heart of the Jays lineup — were unable to respond in the bottom of the 11th with right-hander Joe Smith on the mound. Toronto registered just five hits.

Bautista homered with one out in the ninth to force extra innings. Before his solo shot over the left-field fence off closer Chris Perez, Bautista had hit into two double plays and flied out.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Miami	58	16	.784	—
x-New York	48	26	.649	10
x-Indiana	48	27	.640	10½
x-Brooklyn	43	31	.581	15
x-Atlanta	42	34	.553	17
x-Chicago	40	33	.548	17½
x-Boston	39	36	.520	19½
Milwaukee	36	38	.486	22
Philadelphia	30	44	.405	28
Toronto	**28**	**47**	**.373**	**30½**
Washington	28	47	.373	30½
Detroit	25	51	.329	34
Cleveland	22	52	.297	36
Orlando	19	57	.250	40
Charlotte	18	57	.240	40½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-San Antonio	56	19	.747	—
x-Oklahoma City	54	20	.730	1½
x-Denver	51	24	.680	5
x-L.A. Clippers	49	26	.653	7
x-Memphis	51	24	.680	5
Golden State	42	32	.568	13½
Houston	41	33	.554	14½
L.A. Lakers	39	36	.520	17
Utah	39	37	.513	17½
Dallas	36	38	.486	19½
Portland	33	42	.440	23
Minnesota	28	46	.378	27½
Sacramento	27	47	.365	28½
New Orleans	26	48	.351	29½
Phoenix	23	51	.311	32½

x — clinched playoff berth; **z** — clinched conference.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
Toronto 88 Washington 78
Brooklyn 113 Cleveland 95
Charlotte 88 Philadelphia 83
New York 95 Atlanta 82
Boston 98 Detroit 93
Minnesota 107 Milwaukee 98
San Antonio 98 Orlando 84
Denver 113 Utah 96
Memphis at Portland
Houston at Sacramento
New Orleans at Golden State
Phoenix at L.A. Clippers
THURSDAY'S GAMES — All Times Eastern
Chicago at Brooklyn, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Denver, 9 p.m.
San Antonio at Oklahoma City, 9:30 p.m.

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pt
d-Pittsburgh	38	28	10	0	0	125	94	56
d-Montreal	36	23	8	3	2	114	89	51
d-Winnipeg	38	18	18	0	2	93	115	38
Boston	35	23	8	2	2	100	77	50
Toronto	36	20	12	0	4	112	100	44
Ottawa	36	19	11	2	4	91	79	44
NY Rangers	36	18	15	0	3	88	87	39
New Jersey	36	15	12	3	6	89	100	39
NY Islanders	37	18	16	3	0	108	115	39
Washington	36	17	17	2	0	107	104	36
Philadelphia	36	16	17	1	2	100	111	35
Carolina	35	16	17	1	1	96	106	34
Buffalo	37	14	17	2	4	98	114	34
Tampa Bay	35	15	18	0	2	112	106	32
Florida	37	12	19	5	1	91	127	30

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pt
d-Chicago	35	27	5	0	3	119	76	57
d-Anaheim	36	24	7	2	3	111	90	53
d-Minnesota	35	21	12	1	1	98	90	44
Vancouver	36	19	11	1	5	94	93	44
Los Angeles	36	20	13	1	2	104	91	43
San Jose	35	18	11	3	3	88	86	42
Detroit	36	18	13	3	2	94	94	41
St. Louis	34	18	14	1	1	98	94	38
Nashville	37	15	14	2	6	92	100	38
Edmonton	35	15	13	4	3	91	96	37
Columbus	36	15	14	3	4	87	97	37
Phoenix	36	15	15	2	4	97	102	36
Dallas	35	16	16	2	1	94	107	35
Calgary	34	13	17	1	3	94	118	30
Colorado	36	12	20	3	1	87	114	28

d — division leader. **Note** — division leaders ranked in top three positions per conference regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL or SOL columns.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
Philadelphia 5 Montreal 3
NY Rangers 6 Pittsburgh 1
Edmonton at Calgary
Dallas at Anaheim
Minnesota at San Jose
THURSDAY'S GAMES — All Times Eastern
New Jersey at Boston, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Toronto, 7 p.m.
NY Islanders at Washington, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Winnipeg at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
Columbus at Nashville, 8 p.m.
St. Louis at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Detroit at Phoenix, 10 p.m.
Minnesota at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Vancouver, 10:30 p.m.

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	2	0	1.000	—
Baltimore	1	1	.500	1
Tampa Bay	1	1	.500	1
New York	0	2	.000	2
Toronto	**0**	**2**	**.000**	**2**

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	2	0	1.000	—
Cleveland	2	0	1.000	—
Detroit	1	1	.500	1
Minnesota	1	1	.500	1
Kansas City	0	2	.000	2

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	2	0	1.000	—
Texas	2	1	.667	½
Los Angeles	1	1	.500	1
Houston	1	2	.333	1½
Oakland	0	2	.000	2

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
Chicago White Sox 5 Kansas City 2
Texas 4 Houston 0
Minnesota 3 Detroit 2
Boston 7 N.Y. Yankees 4
Cleveland 3 **Toronto 2** (11)
Tampa Bay 8 Baltimore 7
Seattle at Oakland
THURSDAY'S GAMES — All times Eastern
Detroit (Porcello 0-0) at Minnesota (Pelfrey 0-0), 1:10 p.m.
Kansas City (Guthrie 0-0) at Chicago White Sox (Floyd 0-0), 2:10 p.m.
Baltimore (Gonzalez 0-0) at Tampa Bay (Hernandez 0-0), 3:10 p.m.
Seattle (Maurer 0-0) at Oakland (Griffin 0-0), 3:35 p.m.
Boston (Dempster 0-0) at N.Y. Yankees (Pettitte 0-0), 7:05 p.m.
Cleveland (Myers 0-0) at **Toronto (Buehrle 0-0)**, 7:07 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

THURSDAY'S GAMES — All times Eastern
L.A. Angels (Blanton 0-0) at Cincinnati (Arroyo 0-0), 12:35 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (Wood 0-0) at Pittsburgh (McDonald 0-0), 12:35 p.m.
San Diego (Stults 0-0) at N.Y. Mets (Gee 0-0), 1:10 p.m.
Miami (Leblanc 0-0) at Washington (Zimmermann 0-0), 4:05 p.m.
Philadelphia (Lee 0-0) at Atlanta (Medlen 0-0), 7:10 p.m.

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You may be down because you have not accomplished as much as you had planned but there is really no point moaning about it. Just set new targets and get on with your life.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You will need to compromise today, especially where money is concerned. It does not matter what your feelings are, it matters only that you reach an agreement with those who hold the purse strings.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Be careful what you say over the next 24 hours as the planets warn someone could take your words the wrong way. You know how touchy some people can be and how easy it is to lose friends.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Before you do anything else today, remind yourself that you are the boss. If you want to change your plans because your mood has changed that is entirely up to you. Friends and family should know you by now.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
The choices you make over the next few days will have a huge impact on the direction your life takes over the next few months. Don't be afraid to commit yourself to a creative project. You can make it work.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Your time is precious, so don't waste it on trivial things and trivial people. You know what you should be doing — you can feel it in your bones — so get on with it. It's all about setting the right priorities.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You need to have words with someone who has let you down. You need to let them know you are not amused. Don't accept excuses but don't make them feel too bad either. You're still friends after all.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You feel a bit tired after all the comings and goings of the past few days and should treat yourself to a break. Remember the law of diminishing returns: past a certain point, it's futile to work harder.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
If you merely assume that things will turn out right, they may. But they could just as easily go wrong. Ask yourself what you can actually do to ensure the desired result — then do it.

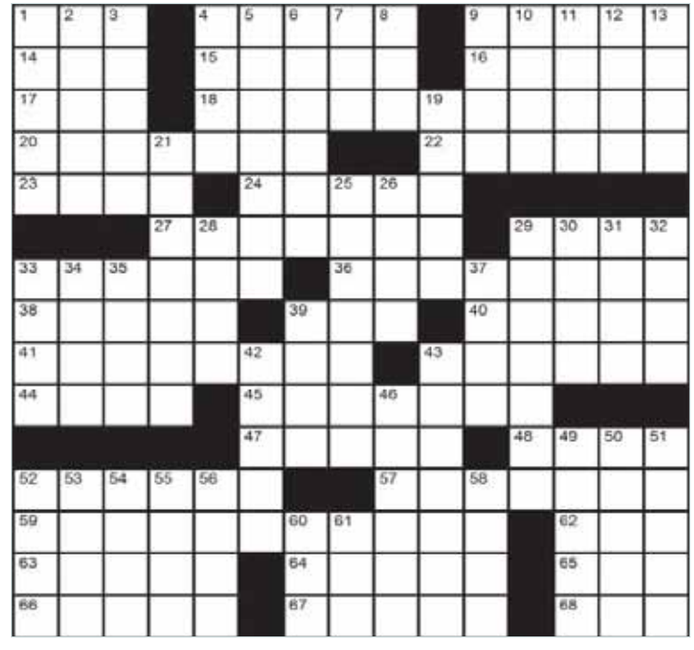
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The only thing that can hold you back now is a lack of self-confidence. Others may think you are supremely assured but there is in fact a major doubt nagging away inside you. Deal with it quickly.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Everything you say and do has an effect on other people, even people you don't know personally, so think before you speak and act. On a cosmic level, you are responsible for others as well as yourself.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
If you want to succeed, you need to be aware not only of areas where you are good but also areas where you are not so good. What are your weaknesses? **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

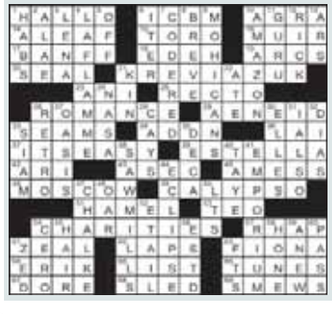
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Tuktoyaktuk locale, for short
4. __ Current, Saskatchewan
9. Superman's father on the planet Krypton, __-__
14. 1988 Poison album: 'Open Up and Say... __!'
15. Chocolate source
16. TV teaser
17. Spirit's sound
18. Michael J. Fox TV role, __ _. __
20. Country singer Ms. Lambert
22. Church: French
23. "Say it __ so!"
24. Pointed arch in architecture
27. Bug
29. Superlative suffix
33. Change the house's topping again
36. Outfit
38. On-the-road reversal
39. Surgery sites, for short
40. Cook's garb
41. Shakespearean tragedy, Troilus and __
43. Soldiers
44. Larry __ (Tony's original portrayer on Broadway in West Side Story)
45. Negations
47. Bar, legally
48. Dutch cheese
52. Layers combed for fossils
57. Fashion designer, Donatella __
59. Tourist-to-Canada's book: 2 wds.
62. Spelling contest
63. Mysterious
64. Per __ (Yearly)
65. Pen name?
66. Honey drinks
67. Uses the horn
68. Olympian, e.g.

Down
1. One of The Judds
2. "__ __ it?" (Asked at the door)
3. Rose's one-of-some
4. All-in-one printer function
5. "The Muppet Show" hecklers, Statler & __
6. Pleistocene event: 2 wds.
7. All-in-one printer function
8. Shirt
9. PC image file format
10. Spoken
11. Roast: French
12. Namesakes of funnyman Mr. Philips
13. Sole
19. Doesn't discard
21. If everything else fails: 2 wds.
25. Repetitive
26. Some delivery vehicles
28. Particles
29. Puts upon
30. River of Spain
31. Food-like food
32. Some money bills
33. Tip to 'sack' (Backpack)
34. Raison d'__
35. Penitent person
37. "My Name Is __"
39. Poetic pieces
42. Model of perfection
43. Like wrists and ankles for some athletes: 2 wds.
46. Backstage mentor on "American Idol", Jimmy __
49. Part of Fred Flintstone's exclamation!
50. Do well, for instance, on an exam: 2 wds.
51. __ Lake Accord
52. Originate from
53. __-planting ceremony
54. ___ avis (Rare bird, Latin style)
55. Keen
56. Kicker's pegs
58. Sleep stages, commonly
60. Make small talk
61. French article

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

2	4					6		3
	3	6	4				5	8
7			3	5			9	
			9		8	1	7	
		4		7		8		
	7	8	2		1			
	5			2	9			1
3	1				4	2	6	
8		2					4	7

Yesterday's Sudoku

7	2	9	1	6	5	8	4	3
4	5	3	8	9	7	2	1	6
6	1	8	2	3	4	9	7	5
3	6	1	4	5	9	7	8	2
9	7	2	3	8	1	6	5	4
5	8	4	7	2	6	1	3	9
8	9	7	6	4	3	5	2	1
2	3	6	5	1	8	4	9	7
1	4	5	9	7	2	3	6	8

Weather

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MAX: 2° MIN: -4°	MAX: -2° MIN: -4°	MAX: -1° MIN: -4°

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